

HERE'S A SIGN THAT REALLY OPENS DOORS.



NON-SMOKERS
AND SMOKERS
WELCOME



It's a sign that says both non-smokers and smokers are welcome. And that you respect your customers' preferences as well as appreciate their business. If you want to send that message, display the accommodation symbol. To become a participant in The Accommodation Program or for more information, call 1-800-929-1414, ext. 5044.

*The Accommodation
Symbol: It's A
Welcome Sign.*



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capitol measures

NATIONAL STATE AND LOCAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE FOODSERVICE INDUSTRY

What's happening at the state capitol...

Smoking

HB 2973 by Solis, D-Sherman and SB 1237 by Armbrister, D-Victor

Bills on smoking regulations would allow business owners to meet their customers' demands.

A coalition of business interests led by TRA and the Texas Association of Business and Chambers of Commerce support legislation to establish consistent statewide standards relating to smoking in restaurants and in the workplace. Seventeen other states have already enacted uniform smoking standards and this bill seeks to do the same in Texas, giving the hospitality industry and other business owners the opportunity to meet customer demand and provide a level-playing field from one community to the next. It will seek to standardize Texas policy and allow business owners and employers to operate with the knowledge that laws will be applied uniformly and equitably. Under the legislation, restaurant owners would have the option of designating smoking areas for their customers or applying a no-smoking policy throughout, depending on their clientele and personal preference and without requiring significant structural or ventilation changes. Both bills have been referred to the State Affairs Committees in their respective chambers.

Alcohol licensing

HB 2419 by Yarbrough, D-Houston and SB 1005 by Cain, D-Dallas

This bill establishes a new food-and-beverage permit that would provide greater specificity in the regulation of the sale or service of alcohol. Currently, mixed beverage and private club permits are used by both bars and restaurants to sell or serve liquor, despite the fact that liquor is the primary product in a bar setting and an ancillary product in a restaurant. This is reflected in the bill in that in order to qualify for the new restaurant permit, sales of alcohol may not exceed 75 percent of the gross sales of the premises.

By creating two separate permits, the Texas Legislature and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission would be able to more clearly define the regulations that relate to either bars or restaurants and would even be able to simplify actions relating to zoning within local communities.

The House bill was scheduled for a hearing before the Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee on March 22. The Senate bill has been referred to the State Affairs Committee.

Music licensing

HB 1530 by Elland, D-Galveston and SB 626 by Lyles, D-Brownsville

TRA supports two bills relating to music licensing collection methods of BMI and ASCAP. Hearings on the bills will be held in early April. Restaurants, retail shops, professional offices and other public places are required by law to pay copyright fees for playing music. Music licensing organizations act as intermediaries between the artists and their works and those establishments broadcasting public performances of the artists' work. Background music, music in television broadcasts, karaoke, elevator background music and even music played on the telephone while callers hold fall under the application of this federal act.

Licensing agents would be required to announce their presence when contacting a business, explain their organization's rate schedules and give comparable rates charged to similar businesses, provide a listing of the works covered by the license and explain that there are exceptions to the law which would not require the purchase of a license. A written contract would be required and threatening or coercive statements would not be allowed in contract negotiations.

The House bill has been referred to the Business and Industry Committee and the Senate bill has been referred to the Economic Development Committee.



Accommodation Program Application

Yes, I'd like to participate in The Accommodation Program and display the accommodation symbol. Please send me FREE information and program materials.

Yes, by checking the box and signing below, I authorize the use of my establishment's name in promotional materials and advertising, identifying it as a participant of The Accommodation Program.


Signature _____

At this time, I am interested in learning more about The Accommodation Program and what it has to offer my business. Please send me more information.

Your Name (please print clearly) _____

Your Title _____

Business Name _____

(Check all that apply)

Restaurant Fine Dining Midscale Quick Service
 Hotel Bowling Center Bar/Liquor Shopping Mall Stadium/Arena Casino Airport Association
 Other (please specify) _____

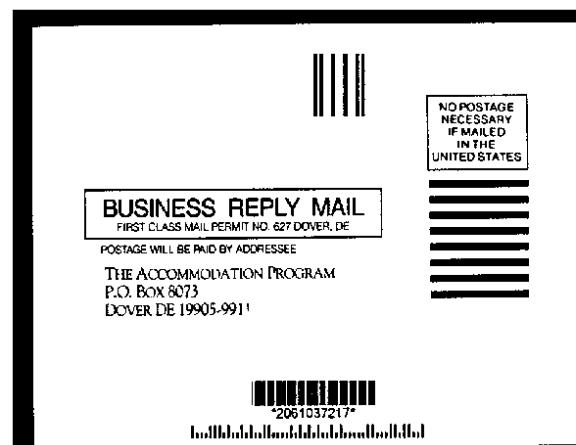
Chain Operator Local Regional National
 Independent Operator

Number of Locations _____


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Business Address	City	State *	Zip
Phone	Fax	(P.O.)	

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